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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/845,491

05/01/2001

Tadashi Sakamoto

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2354

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05/20/2004

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EXAMINER

BAYAT, ALI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/845,491

Applicant(s)

SAKAMOTO, TADASHI

Examiner

Ali Bayat

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsujimoto et al. (U.S. 4,893,187).

In regard to claim 1, Tsujimoto provides for an image data conversion device which converts image data comprising pixels of M columns (M is a positive integer) in the horizontal direction by N rows (N is a positive integer) in the vertical direction, wherein said image data are first one dimensional data gained by repeating pixels for M columns, which continue in the horizontal direction, N times in sequence in the vertical direction (Fig.1 note scanner and run length coding circuit col.3 lines 34-43), said image data conversion device including:

A line memory which stores said first one dimensional data (Fig.1 element 3 col.3 lines 34-410; a detection circuit which is connected to said line memory and which detects the number M of pixels in the horizontal direction of said first one dimensional data which are stored in said line memory (Fig.1 element 6 col.3 lines 50-61); and a conversion circuit which is connected to said line memory and said detection circuit and which reads out, in the order related to said M and, thereby, converts each pixel of said first one dimensional data stored in said line memory into a second one

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dimensional data (Fig.1 element 13 col.4 lines 9-18 note that the run length coding circuit 13 carries out the vertical run length coding operation which corresponds to second one dimensional data).

With regard to claim 2. See claim 1 above. It recites similar limitations as claim 2. Hence it is similarly analyzed and rejected.

As to claim 3, Tsujimoto provides for a image data conversion device, wherein said conversion circuit includes a circuit (Fig.1 element 6) which reads out each pixel of said first one dimensional data in the order in accordance with a multiple of said M (col.4 lines 9-16, note respective columns from the endpoint count memory 11, the endpoint coordinate values of the respective columns from the endpoint coordinate value memory 12).

Objected Claims

2. Claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 7-20, are allowed.

Other Cited References

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US patent 4,543,612 to Matsunaga et al. is cited for facsimile system.

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US patent 6,157,676 to Takaoka et al. is cited for digital video signal inter-block interpolative predictive encoding decoding apparatus and method providing high efficiency of encoding.

US patent 5,048,096 to Beato is cited for bi-tonal image non-text matter removal with run length and connected component analysis.

US patent 5,864,652 to Murahashi is cited for image storage and retrieval for a printer.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Bayat whose telephone number is 703-306-5915.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 9:00-7:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 703-3085246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

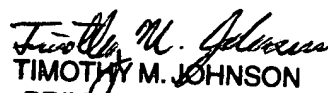
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Ali Bayat 
Patent examiner
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5/15/04


TIMOTHY M. JOHNSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER